

It sounds compassionate, but it only offers fake hope. An FDA process already exists to allow terminally ill patients to try experimental drugs at no charge. But the difference is that the proposal that we just voted on strips consumer protections and charges patients.

The FDA program receives about 1,000 requests each year and responds in a few days, often recommending changes to enhance safety for the patient. Removing the FDA from the approval process does not add value and could instead be detrimental.

The bill would open up access to drugs after phase I trials, which are very small and, more often than not, unsuccessful. This bill allows pharmaceutical companies to profit off of experimental drugs that could ruin the quality of life that is left.

This bill creates the wrong incentives and pushes care for the terminally ill in the wrong direction, which is why I join patient and consumer advocates in their strong opposition to this bill. This was under suspension and, therefore, did not pass. I remain opposed to the bill.

FIRST FEMALE FIREFIGHTER

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding member of my community, Mary View from Ilion, New York. Mary recently made history by becoming the first female firefighter in the Village of Ilion.

Mary was raised in a family of firefighters. Her father, Ed View III, is currently the deputy chief of the Herkimer Fire Department; and her grandfather, Ed View II, also served in the Herkimer Fire Department and is now happily retired.

As a young girl, she would spend a lot of time at the fire station. She remembers being in the car with her father when he would receive emergency calls, and she would be happy to join along with him to respond.

Serving in the fire department is a bit of a legacy, as we described, for the View family. Mary always thought she would grow up to become a firefighter, and despite a brief time thinking she was going to take up a career in criminal justice, the urge to become a firefighter was irresistible, and Mary ended up doing just that.

Mary is not only making history, but also living her lifelong dream. She hopes to be an inspiration to all women who want to pursue the same career in the fire service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mary View on making history as the first woman firefighter in the Village of Ilion. She is part of the next generation of women leaders, and I know she will do an amazing job.

REMEMBERING OFFICER GREGORY JONATHAN CASILLAS

(Mrs. TORRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I report to you an incident that occurred the evening of March 9.

Officers of the Pomona Police Department were involved in a short pursuit that resulted in a 15-hour-long standoff. At the onset of that standoff, Officer Gregory Jonathan Casillas was killed in the line of duty.

Officer Casillas was at the beginning of his career in law enforcement. He was a dedicated public servant. He was young, energetic, and honest. He never lost hope or sight of his dreams.

Officer Casillas joined the Pomona Police Department in December of 2014, working his way up as a records specialist, jailer, recruit, to his graduation in 2017 from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Academy Class No. 207. He died doing what he loved: serving our community.

He is survived by his wife and his 5-month-old and 4-year-old sons.

Officer Casillas, your memory and spirit will live on. May you rest in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANGIE GOMEZ

(Mr. KIHUEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Angie Gomez. Angie visited Las Vegas on October 1 for the Route 91 music festival.

Angie is described by her friends as a natural-born caregiver. It was only natural for her to want to get certified as a nursing assistant, so she did. Outside of caring for others, she loved theater and choir, participating in both throughout middle school and high school.

Angie loved nothing more than to spend time with her two nieces, whom she adored. Friends and family remember her as a team player who wasn't afraid of being herself. She was fun-loving, sweet, and had a great sense of humor.

I would like to extend my condolences to Angie's family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieve with you.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is a very important day. Students in my district are walking out of school because they expect their leaders to do something about this problem of gun violence. For years, this body

sadly has failed to act; and because we failed to act, our young people are acting tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, 2,808 people have died in 2018 already because of this scourge of gun violence.

Why isn't that enough for us to act?

It is only March, and already we have almost 3,000 people dead. I guess that is not a surprise because at least 15,549 people died from gun violence in 2017 last year.

Isn't that enough?

We know why this is going on: powerful commercial interests in Washington—gun manufacturers led by their lawyer, I guess the NRA—are preventing basic, commonsense approaches to safety.

You can't even study it. The Centers for Disease Control is prohibited from studying gun violence. We don't have enough resources to really make a true database so that you can find the people who are, in fact, legally prohibited from getting guns, so they sneak through the holes. There are many other problems.

Now is the time, Mr. Speaker. We have to act with those young people who are walking out tomorrow.

NATIONAL K-9 VETERANS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHIO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. YOHIO. Mr. Speaker, in my previous life, before Congress—I am a veterinarian in the practice for 30 years—I have had the pleasure of taking care of all of God's creatures. It has been a privilege, a pleasure, and an honor.

So much is going on in Washington and the world, and we hear a lot of bad things going on, so tonight we are going to do a Special Order honoring K-9 Veterans Day, March 13. This evening, my colleagues and I would like to take a moment and pay tribute to the thousands of working dogs that serve our Nation.

They serve in the military. They serve in the fire department, the police department, and the Drug Enforcement Agency. They serve in your neighbor's house next door to alert people of intruders, maybe a fire, or finding a lost child. There is a group of people who do search and rescue only on a volunteer basis.

These unsung heroes, our K-9s, serve our Nation in many ways. Their contributions to our neighborhoods, communities, towns, cities, States, and even Nation cannot be overstated.

The biggest thank-you goes out to all of these K-9s serving our Nation's military and working to keep the homeland safe both here and abroad, as well as our local law enforcement K-9s. Tonight we honor you.

Over the past few months, I have had the honor of getting to know the working K-9s and their handlers that serve

Florida's Third Congressional District. After great visits, demonstrations, discussions—and I even had the experience yesterday with our team in our district; I experienced the subdued tactics of these dogs, wearing protective gear, of course—I am convinced more than ever that these amazing animals and their handlers need support and recognition for the incredible work that they do.

It is not just in north central Florida and northeast Florida. You can find these selfless heroes in all districts all across our great country. Whether it is checking the stadiums top to bottom, which, incidentally, yesterday, when we got to talking to the different sheriff's organizations, they said, at every Gator game at the University of Florida, the dogs check the entire stadium.

For those who have been to Gator Nation and seen our stadium there, it is a huge stadium, as all are, and they check it before every game, every basketball game, every big venue, and these dogs are out there working to keep Americans safe. Whether it is checking, as I said, the stadiums top to bottom for explosives or narcotics prior to big sporting events or helping find a missing person or being there at just the right moment when an officer is in need of backup, these K-9s deserve to have their stories heard tonight.

Tonight we celebrate National K-9 Veterans Day. My colleagues and I intend to do just that. While we celebrate their services tonight, I want to encourage all Members to do what they can to support these K-9s, their handlers, and the departments they represent.

National K-9 Veterans Day began in World War I, when the most famous K-9, Sergeant Stubby, shined a spotlight on the incredible working dogs and the value they bring to our national service. Brigadier General SCOTT PERRY is going to talk about Stubby more tonight, so I will leave that for him.

□ 1930

In Vietnam, nearly 4,000 dogs actively served, and in Iraq, these dogs were critical in sniffing out deadly IEDs. Since then, these dogs have served in our military and law enforcement, working hard to keep Americans safe. We owe not just today to these K-9s, but a thanks every day for their service.

To begin tonight, I would recognize the K-9 teams that serve in my home district and will share many of their stories here tonight. However, I want to start with one of my favorites from the Alachua County Sheriff's Office.

In December 2017, in the far northern reaches of rural Alachua County, a previous victim of domestic violence and battery was walking out to meet detectives when she heard the voice of her assailant calling to her from the darkness. Terrified, she ran back inside, called 911, and deputies responded in an effort to catch the suspect with active warrants that included kidnapping and sexual assault.

Deputy Sheriff Chris Drake and K-9 Rous arrived, knowing full well that the suspect had not only stolen the victim's car with a gun inside earlier, but dug a hole and buried himself to elude a helicopter searchlight and a floor camera the night before. With that information, Chris and his dog, Rous, began to track the suspect.

Lifting K-9 Rous over some fences and cutting their way through others, Deputy Drake and others continued following the suspect's scent until, as Drake's report reads: "Rous . . . still smelling human odor . . . ears forward, and staring intently . . . identified something lying in the water . . . the man stood up from the water . . . turned north into the woods and disappeared."

Continuing their track, K-9 Rous and Deputy Drake again found the suspect hiding in a separate swamp, with only his back exposed. That is not a good thing with a catch dog.

When challenged, the felon fled again, and K-9 Rous was released to catch him. K-9 Rous ran into the water, swam briefly, and apprehended the suspect on the arm, enduring punches to the head and holding on until deputies could arrive and assist, placing the suspect in handcuffs for a trip to the hospital and then jail.

These deputies and their K-9 partners are on the road every day, working 12-hour shifts, 24 hours a day, supporting every local law enforcement patrol task and providing mutual aid to our neighboring jurisdictions when called upon.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM), another veterinarian.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today is National K-9 Veterans Day. As a member of the Veterinarian Caucus, I rise to commemorate the service of our four-legged friends who assist our military and police force in keeping our Nation and our communities safe.

Though the War Dogs program, or K-9 Corps as it is commonly known, was first established during World War II, dogs have been assisting our soldiers since pit bulls were used for security during the Civil War.

On March 13, 1942, the K-9 Corps was officially born and became immediately effective. Dogs were used in the Pacific theater, where it has been said that the Japanese never ambushed or made a surprise attack on a patrol led by one of these dogs. It is estimated that the Army employed 1,500 dogs in the Korean war and 4,000 dogs during the Vietnam war.

With noses 100,000 times as sensitive as humans, our soldiers continue to use them today to sniff for bombs in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. One named Cairo was even used to sniff for bombs around Osama bin Laden's compound during the raid to take him down.

Just like soldiers, these dogs go through rigorous training to serve our Nation. Their courage, loyalty, and acumen have saved countless lives. We

appreciate their service and the service of their trainers and the soldiers who use them on the battlefield.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, next I yield to the gentleman from my Pennsylvania, Brigadier General SCOTT PERRY, my good friend.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I also want to join my friends in honoring National K-9 Veterans Day.

Every March 13, we commemorate the United States Army's first K-9 Corps training program. While this program began in 1942, the history of our "best friend" engaging in training and combat with us extends well beyond that date.

Today, we commemorate the iconic Sergeant Stubby. If you don't know about Stubby, Sergeant Stubby was a brindle bull terrier mutt from New Haven, Connecticut. Stubby was adopted by U.S. Army Private Robert Conroy, who stowed him away on a ship bound for France in the First World War, where his service was integral to saving American lives. Stubby was allowed to join our soldiers on the front lines after he was discovered by Private Conroy's commanding officer. Because Stubby rendered a salute to the commander, he was allowed to stay.

While on the front, he was once injured during a gas strike and developed a unique sensitivity to the smell of chemical weapons used at that time. His sensitivity was used to alert sleeping troops to another gas attack. He rescued them on numerous occasions from an ill and very painful fate.

Sergeant Stubby also thwarted a German spy attempting to map out the battlefield of the Allied trenches. He did that by grabbing onto the German soldier, biting him and subduing him until the American soldiers could arrive.

Sergeant Stubby served in 17 separate battles during World War I. Private Conroy's grandson, Curt Deane, recalled stories about Stubby:

"My grandmother was always clear: he was a service dog. He gave the troops comfort . . . and support. He used to run through the trenches and warn them about gas attacks. He used to go outside of the trenches and into this sort of no man's land between the U.S. and the German trenches and stand by soldiers who had been injured until the medics could come and get them."

Sergeant Stubby became a lifetime member of the American Legion and was recognized as the mascot of Georgetown University in the 1920s, where Private Conroy then studied law. In 1921, Stubby was awarded the Humane Education Society's Hero Dog gold medal and earned the honor of meeting General John "Blackjack" Pershing, the highest ranking service-member since General George Washington, at that time.

Sergeant Stubby died in Private Conroy's arms on March 16, 1926.

Today, Sergeant Stubby is set to be immortalized in an animated film

premiering next month. That will be great for us all to see. His loyalty, bravery, and selflessness is the legacy for thousands of service dogs being trained at any given time in all branches of our military, as well as our local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies.

While we aren't yet able to measure the exact number of lives saved by service dogs, one thing is certain: dogs really are a man's and woman's best friend. We are forever grateful and indebted to these animals and applaud them, their handlers and caretakers for their tireless service and devotion to duty and showing us the true meaning of "battle buddy."

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Pennsylvania, Brigadier General SCOTT PERRY, for sharing that story.

The attitude and loyalty of the dog is amazing, as well as the singularity of purpose in their drive and ambition.

Like I said, yesterday, we got to experience police K-9 dogs going after a victim. I was the victim. I had a glove on my arm. But we saw the intent and the way those dogs focus. They showed us a demonstration of sniffing out gunpowder. They hid it in a big room with all sorts of explosives. These dogs just go to task and don't complain. I think there is a lesson we all can learn from.

I thank the gentleman for his participation and for his story. I look forward to that movie. It is funny how people say dogs can't talk, but we know they do through their body language. That is why movies like that that highlight the actions of an animal, especially dogs, do so well. I know that will be a blockbuster.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for hosting this tonight for us to talk about the importance of these dogs. They are more than dogs; they are buddies to our men and women in uniform who have been fighting for America.

Mr. Speaker, in the year 2000, I had the honor and the pleasure of meeting John Burnam, retired United States Army combat infantryman and dog handler during the Vietnam war. He approached me with the idea of a War Dog Memorial to honor our great K-9 veterans.

John shared with me the impact that these animals had on him and his fellow handlers in the sixties. They are forever emotionally grateful for their K-9 buddies.

Through this relationship, as we began to work on a War Dog Memorial in 2007, which took several years, a marine named Dustin Lee was killed in the Iraq war. John had written a story. He wanted me to read the story and then speak out and reach out to General Regner, United States Marine Corps, and ask him to please retire this wonderful animal named Lex, a German shepherd, who had also been wounded with his master, and ask Gen-

eral Regner to reach out to the Air Force to retire Lex.

I want to read briefly the story that John had written and given to me. I will read five paragraphs from the article, "My Partner Dustin."

"I'm a U.S. Marine and the primary element of a two-member team trained to hunt and locate explosives. My partner and I trained as a team for many months honing our expertise to save American lives in the war on terrorism in Iraq.

"It's March 21, 2007, and I'm on the job in Fallujah, Iraq, when an enemy-fired rocket propelled grenade explodes in our midst. I'm blasted to the ground and stunned. My head is ringing and my body feels numb. My eyes can't quite focus on anything.

"My partner is lying next to me severely wounded and bleeding. I move to him and touch him, but he's not responding. I feel sharp pains in my side and back. I'm bleeding but deal with it and concentrate on comforting my partner and protecting him from further harm.

"Everything's happening so fast that I'm disorientated and confused. My senses pick up the lingering smell of burnt powder and smoke from the explosion. I hear lots of American voices and heavy boot steps hurrying all around us. They reach our location and immediately attend to my partner, then carry him away. I'm separated from my partner for the first time. I'm not clear of thought, and then I, too, am carried away but to a different hospital.

"I'm in a building lying on a table with lights above and people talking. Still dazed and confused, I hear a strange voice saying my name, 'Lex.' I gesture a slight reflex of acknowledgment. 'Lex, you are going to be okay buddy. Just lay still. We are going to take care of your wounds, so stay calm okay, Lex?' My eyes dart around the room searching for my partner, but he's not there and no one can interpret my thoughts."

The partner died.

I was called by John Burnam to read this story. I sent this story to General Mike Regner. I said: Mike, we need to retire this dog for the family.

Mr. Speaker, the family lived in Mississippi. I didn't know them.

This story, which I include in the RECORD, touched my heart.

"MY PARTNER DUSTIN"

(By John C. Burnam, December 21, 2007)

I'm a U.S. Marine and the primary element of a two-member team trained to hunt and locate explosives. My partner and I trained as a team for many months honing our expertise to save American lives in the War on Terrorism in Iraq.

It's March 21, 2007 and I'm on the job in Fallujah, Iraq when an enemy fired Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) explodes in our midst. I'm blasted to the ground and stunned. My head is ringing and my body feels numb. My eyes can't quite focus on anything.

My partner is lying next to me severely wounded and bleeding. I move to him and

touch him but he's not responding. I feel sharp pains in my side and back. I'm bleeding but deal with it and concentrate on comforting my partner and protecting him from further harm.

Everything's happening so fast that I'm disorientated and confused. My senses pick up the lingering smell of burnt powder and smoke from the explosion. I hear lots of American voices and heavy boot-steps hurrying all around us. They reach our location and immediately attend to my partner, then carry him away. I'm separated from my partner for the first time. I'm not clear of thought and then I too am carried away but to a different hospital.

I'm in a building lying on a table with lights above and people talking. Still dazed and confused I hear a strange voice say my name, "Lex!" I gesture a slight reflex of acknowledgement. "Lex! You are going to be okay buddy! Just lay still. We are going to take care of your wounds, so stay calm okay, Lex?" My eyes dart around the room searching for my partner, but he's not there and no one can interpret my thoughts.

Later, I'm released from the hospital and well enough to travel so they transfer me from Iraq to a U.S. Marine Corp base in Albany, Georgia. I really miss my partner, Dusty. I know something has happened to him because he would never have left me alone for so long.

Yes, my name is Lex. I'm a seven year old German shepherd Military Working Dog, service number E132. My master and loyal partner is Corporal Dustin Jerome Lee, 20 year old U.S. Marine Corps canine handler from Quitman, Mississippi. I'm well disciplined to my master's commands and expertly trained to sniff out bombs and explosives. Where's my master, Dusty, my partner? No one can understand me but Dusty. Where's Dusty?

Iraq was to be my last combat tour before retirement. Dusty talked to me all the time about going home and adopting me. I sure do miss him. He is the best friend I've ever had. I love that crazy Marine from Mississippi!

No one can measure the love and unconditional loyalty I have for Dusty. I'd sacrifice my own life for him and he knows it. I just wish I could have stopped that RPG or pushed Dusty away from that powerful blast. It all happened in a blink of an eye and I didn't see it coming until it was too late. Now I sit alone in my kennel-run waiting for the day Dusty shows up.

The U.S. Marines are treating me very well. I get enough food and water and exercise each day. And the veterinarian comes by to examine my wounds on a regular basis. I just can't sleep well at night. I wake up to every little noise and I think about Dusty. Where can that Marine be?

The nights are long. The days turn into weeks. Still no Dusty! My wounds are healing and my hair is growing back. The pain is still in my back but I can walk okay. I have a piece of shrapnel near my spine that the veterinarians avoid removing for fear of worse complications. I have spent twelve weeks in rehabilitation after my surgery and declared physically unable to perform in a combat zone.

One of the dog handlers gave me a real good bath and grooming. I felt so refreshed because I was on my way to meet Dusty's family. Maybe Dusty will be there waiting for me. When I arrived I sensed something was not quite right. Dusty wasn't there and everyone was sad, but very happy to greet me. I then realized that I was attending Dusty's funeral. Everyone showed up to pay their respects.

Dusty is a real American hero and he was buried with full military honors. I was so proud to have been his last best friend and

partner. At one particular moment of total silence during the ceremony, I sniffed a slight scent in the air that was very familiar. It smelled like Dusty. I figured he sent me a signal that he knew I was there! I wagged my tail and moaned a sigh of grief that he would only hear and understand. I just about lost my tail in that horrible explosion and the veterinarian fixed it so it still wags okay.

I was greeted by the Lee family with joy in their hearts. The picture is of Dustin's mom, Rachel, and me in church. It felt so warm and comfortable to be with my partner's loving family. I wanted to stay but I was escorted away after the funeral and back to Albany, Georgia. What is going to happen to me now?

Wait a minute! I was due for retirement, right? Why did the military take me to see Dusty's family and not leave me there? I belong with them in Mississippi not here in Georgia.

The Lee family adopting me would not be too much to ask considering they will never again see their son, grandson, brother, nephew and friend. Adopting me will keep a big part of Dusty's life alive for them and for me. I will enable Dusty's family to experience what he already knew about me. I loved and protected him everywhere we went and even on the battlefield in Iraq. It's time the U.S. Marine Corps allowed Dustin's family to adopt me. I'm not a young pup anymore, you know! I'm a senior of retirement age. I want to spend last years of my life with the Lee family. It's where I now belong!

It's been eight long months since we buried my partner, Dustin, and all attempts by the Lee family to adopt me have failed. The Marines have placed me back on duty training new recruits. My back bothers me some but I'm an expert on the job. It's the recruits that have a lot to learn about keeping their eyes on me and understanding my body language. Dustin and I bonded as a team and our minds were always in sync.

There has been a turn of events in my adoption. U.S. Congressman Walter B. Jones of North Carolina heard my story and immediately contacted the U.S. Marine Corps Commandant at the Pentagon in Washington D.C. requesting my urgent release.

The Marines really showed off their compassion for the Lee family and me too! They even dispatched a veterinarian to give me a complete final medical examination. I feel a sense of excitement I haven't felt in a very long time. I even have a prance in my step!

That's a Christmas picture of me and Dusty in Iraq, December 2006. That's me smiling with the Lee family and some of Dusty's Marine pals at the funeral in Quitman, Mississippi, April 2007.

The top Marine brass and the veterinarian signed the official papers saying I'm A-OK to be adopted. I got an honorable discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps on December 21, 2007, the anniversary day of Dustin's death. I will be home with the Lee family for Christmas.

That's a picture of me greeting the Lee family at my retirement ceremony at the U.S. Marine Corps base, Albany, Georgia, December 21, 2007. The news media was everywhere! My adoption even made the nightly news on national television. I'm the first Marine Corps combat veteran working dog to ever be retired to the family of a fallen Marine.

Dusty? I'm sure you had a lot to do with all this from heaven. And I can hardly wait to visit your room and lie down on your bed and sniff your boots and clothes. Living with your family will be like having you around again, Dusty!

Always Faithful,
LEX (E132),

*German Shepherd,
Military Working
Dog, U.S. Marine
Corps Veteran (Retired).*

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I called him and I said: Mike, this family has lost everything, their son. They want Lex to retire and live out the rest of his life.

He had shrapnel in his back.

So, the Air Force agreed with General Regner and retired the dog. That dog spent 8 years with the family of the marine who was killed.

I went over to Walter Reed on a regular basis during the Iraq war, and I never will forget a young Army guy who had lost his leg. He told me the story. He was a dog handler of a platoon and waiting for the dog to go out and sniff an IED. The dog goes out, finds the IED, and turns around and looks at the platoon. Then the IED exploded.

There are so many of these stories that it is hard to even get a record of them.

□ 1945

In closing, I wanted to thank former President George W. Bush. He signed the bill to erect a War Dog Memorial at Lackland Air Force Base. John Burnam deserves so much credit. He got the private sector to pay for the memorial at Lackland Air Force Base. So the dogs that Mr. YOHO and others have spoken about tonight will never be forgotten. There is a memorial for them and the work they have done for this country.

I want to say that, to me, of all the things—I have been in Congress 20 years—but when you touch a dog, you touch a child. These dogs have done so much to save the children who are now soldiers, marines, airmen, and sailors, to save those people from being killed by IEDs and the enemy.

So, again, I thank Mr. YOHO very much for putting this together, and I thank God that we can always remember that an animal is a gift from God as much as we are as human beings.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from North Carolina. And I love that story. That is a great story. What you touched on is the loyalty, the trust, the integrity of these working dogs—not only in the work they do, but when they come back to the home—of what they do. It is unconditional love and unconditional loyalty.

We should take a lesson from that as humans, shouldn't we?

Mr. JONES. Amen.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to tell a story from my district, and this deals with seizing the drugs and profits that arm criminals: As part of their regularly assigned duties with the Gainesville-Alachua County Drug Task Force, Sergeant Bryan Jones and K-9 Jerry responded to assist another agent with a traffic stop on Interstate 75. Despite a series of efforts by the suspect, like those

seen on television to hide contraband in hidden compartments, K-9 Jerry couldn't be fooled—locating nearly \$100,000 in cash and over a kilogram of narcotics. It is just amazing how these dogs know what to do and they are so good at it. They smell things that we can't even think about with their sensory perception.

Another story is rescuing those that need our help: In February 2018, the Florida Highway Patrol contacted the Alachua County Sheriff's Office after finding an abandoned vehicle along Interstate 75 near San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park. It appeared as though the driver, diagnosed with a mental illness and having fled his home in south Florida, may have wandered into the park and its over 7,000 acres of forest, sinkholes, rattle snakes, ponds, alligators, and trails.

Deputy Sheriff Lloyd O'Quinn and K-9 Eins began tracking the subject through the woods until becoming physically exhausted in the heat. Deputy Sheriff James Riley and K-9 Knight, Deputy Sheriff Esau Bright and K-9 Rosco, Deputy Sheriff Chris Drake and K-9 Rous, and Sergeant Michael Hurlocker and K-9 Havok all responded and relieved one another with tracking throughout the park.

After tracking and searching the wooded area for several hours, and with the help of the prison bloodhounds sent to assist from the Florida Department of Corrections, the driver was safely located and was provided the treatment he needed at an area hospital to the relief of his family and friends far away.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia, TOM GARRETT, a good friend of mine that served in our military in the Army.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO), on this day when we honor dogs that serve honorably, just like the women and men who serve our country, for putting on this Special Order.

Anyone who has ever had a dog understands the depths of the bonds that can develop between human beings and their four-legged friends. I can remember every single dog that we have ever owned. I can remember how each one died. I can remember being there when two died. I never had the discipline or the opportunity or honor to serve with the working dogs that defend not just our country abroad, but also here at home. But as I say, of my time in the military, I am not a hero, but I have gotten to meet some.

In researching for this opportunity to honor those four-legged heroes and those with whom they work, I had the opportunity to read about some books: "Always Faithful," a book about Marine Corps working dogs by William Putney; "The Dogs of War" by Lisa Rogak; "War Dogs" by Rebecca Frankel; and "Sergeant Rex" by Mike Dowling, among the most highly commended; as well as "Unconditional Honor" primarily by Cathy Scott,

which recognizes the fact that those of you watching at home, and this RECORD, might not contemplate, and that is the role that dogs play, not just on the battlefield and in finding missing people, and fighting crime here at home, but also when helping our servicemen and -women recover from wounds visible and invisible when they return to this country.

Indeed, thousands of servicemembers, welcomed by a climate that is shifting as it relates to service dogs, take the definition of working dog beyond the battlefield and outside of the field of crime and punishment into bedrooms and living rooms, and they help our brothers and sisters heal from wounds that most of us, praise God, will never be able to imagine.

As I think has been noted, at any given time, there are more than over 2,000 military working dogs with roughly 700 working overseas. These specially trained dogs can cost anywhere from \$5,000 to \$30,000 to procure and train, and about 30 service dogs annually are killed in the line of duty.

When I was in the military, we always looked with admiration upon the individuals who had the decorations and the pins and an adornments that very few people would earn. One was HALO wings. That stands for high altitude low opening. That is when you jump out of an airplane so high that someone couldn't possibly imagine that there might be someone inserting via this mechanism. Well, indeed, we have military dogs that insert this way, as well as strapped to their handlers via helicopter, and every other imaginable circumstance.

In fact, as I look at history, the oldest documented accounts of dogs either being used as accoutrements to defend their people or accompanying their masters onto the field of battle are almost 3,000 years old, and this is about as long as we can go back into documented written history. But tonight, Mr. Speaker, I want to speak briefly about a personal friend and hero.

In early 2006, Patrick Sheridan of the Louisa County Sheriff's Office procured Maggie Electric Potential from a bloodhound kennel in New Jersey and began working very hard with what I believe was the second dog that Lieutenant Sheridan would train. In fact, Lieutenant Sheridan and his K-9 team have become so successful in working K-9 operations and scent tracking, specifically, that they have tracked individuals on multiple continents and in multiple nations. And over the course of Maggie Electric Potential's, aka Maggie's, 6-year career, she worked almost 350 calls for service.

In 2010 alone, her duties ranged from trailing breaking-and-entering suspects and suspects in violent crime cases to helping locate a missing 5-year-old child before that child succumbed to the elements.

On December 12, 2011, Maggie and Lieutenant Sheridan were not engaged in chasing down a drug dealer or find-

ing some horrific individual and preventing them from visiting domestic violence on someone once too frequently victimized, but, instead, searching for an individual who had been reported missing and suicidal. I make this point to note that these dogs defend the people with whom they serve and the people of our communities.

On this occasion, Maggie, while trailing again on nearly her 350th working call, encountered a pit bull and ultimately was attacked and succumbed to her injuries. Her end of watch on December 12, 2011, represents one of hundreds of working dog deaths just this century.

I, too, commend former President Bush for the establishment and the use of private citizen dollars to do such of a War Dog Memorial and hope that we will see something similar done as it relates to those working dogs who defend us not in the military, but in law enforcement here at home, not only by pursuing and apprehending criminals, but also by finding missing children and those who might harm themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I would commend to those viewing and to the Members of this body, when they find a dog handler or someone who had worked as a dog handler in the past, please say "thank you" for the dedication, time, and loyalty that is, indeed, reciprocal and unconditional because we need never fathom how many lives have been saved.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the good gentleman from Virginia. The gentleman brought up some great things there, the dedication of the handlers. Here we have got the Clay County Sheriff's Department with Diesel, a bloodhound that these guys are so dedicated with the dogs that they work with. It is unbelievable, the good they do, the search and the rescue that they do. And you brought up on Maggie how she had—the 350th working call that Maggie had performed for the people of our country.

And this is something people don't realize, the amount of calls these dogs go on and the amount of work that they do. The average lifespan or service of these dogs is anywhere from 7 to 9 years, and people wonder about the cost of the dog, the cost of a program. Yeah, it is expensive to keep these dogs, but what we have found is so many people out there who are good-hearted who realize the benefit of the working K-9 that they donate the cost of the dog. Many times the cost of the dog can run from \$5,000 to \$9,000 by the time you get it trained, and \$4,000 to \$5,000 a year to maintain these. And there is a lot of community help to make sure this gets done.

Mr. Speaker, I will now talk about another dog at the Gainesville Police Department: Justice is a German Shepherd that worked for the Gainesville Police Department starting in September 2006. During his career, Justice was responsible for locating hundreds

of—hundreds of offenders. He assisted several other agencies throughout his career to include the Florida Highway Patrol, the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, the University of Florida Police Department, the City of Alachua Police Department, and the City of High Springs Police Department.

Justice was credited with saving a life. The incident involved a suicidal person who had taken a deadly amount of prescription pills, left a suicide note, and walked off into the woods. After 2 hours of officers trying to locate the person, Officer Owens and Justice were called to the scene while off duty. Justice was able to track and locate the person who was passed out by the effects of the pill and clinging to life. EMS was called, and the person was taken to the hospital. Doctors stated that if the person was not located when they were, the medications taken would have, no doubt, ended in their death and another suicide.

Justice received a lifesaving award through the department. On the last night of his career, Justice was called to locate a suspect that fled from an officer who recognized him as a felony habitual traffic offender and a drug dealer. The officer tried to conduct a traffic stop on the vehicle being driven by the suspect. When the officer activated his overhead lights, the suspect turned off his headlights, accelerated to a high speed, fleeing through a neighborhood. The officer did not pursue the vehicle. Another officer located the abandoned vehicle minutes later. A perimeter search was established.

Officer Charles Owens and Justice responded to the scene. Justice began a track from the driver's side door. The track led through several backyards and for several blocks. Justice's track led into a wooded area where the suspect was located by Justice trying to conceal himself under a fallen tree. If not for Justice, the suspect would have eluded capture. Justice was sent to retire at the end of the shift, which ended at 4 a.m. He captured his last suspect just in the nick of time at 3 a.m. Officer Owens took possession of Justice after his retirement, and they have been with each other since.

Justice turns 15 on March 15 of this year and is still as active as he can be in his seasoned age. And I think, again, that is a model for all of us to follow.

Another story, Mr. Speaker, K-9 deputy successfully talks down an armed suicidal subject: The Marion County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to the 17,800 block of County Road 25 in reference to a domestic altercation. It was learned that the suspect battered and strangled a female victim. The suspect fled the area, just prior to the deputy's arrival. K-9 Deputy Jeremie Nix and K-9 Drago tracked and located the suspect in a wooded area, at which time the suspect advised he was armed with a firearm and a knife and threatened suicide.

□ 2000

Deputy Nix was able to create a dialogue with the suspect and persuaded him to surrender peacefully. He did not have a firearm, but he was armed with a knife. The suspect was arrested and charged with domestic battery by strangulation and is being held in the Marion County Jail on \$10,000 bond.

During this standoff, Deputy Nix and K-9 Drago accidentally stepped into a yellow jacket nest and were stung over 20 times. K-9 Drago was taken to the veterinarian's office to be checked out after the call, and he and Deputy Nix recovered and are back to work. Great job for everyone.

The K-9 team locates burglar, recovers approximately \$3,500 of stolen property: On the morning of Thursday, February 1, 2018, Marion County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to Ernie's Auction Center, located at 5305 South Pine, in reference to a burglary that just occurred.

As employees were opening the business, it was observed that the front door had been forcibly entered and suspects were observed running through the inside of the business.

Deputy Brandon Donahue and his K-9 partner, Tipster, and Deputy Nickolas Frost immediately tracked the suspect and located him within 30 minutes. During the track, two different locations were found where the suspects were stashing stolen items from the business. The stolen property, valued at \$3,500, was recovered and returned to the businessowner.

People just don't realize the acute sense that these dogs have and why they are so valuable.

Another story is about Deputy Brian Litz. On February 7, 2004, Deputy Brian Litz and another deputy responded to the Pine Run subdivision in reference to a well-being check on a 74-year-old individual.

When the deputies arrived at the house, the individual met them at the door with a handgun. Deputy Litz was attempting to pass under the front window of the home to get a better visual on the individual with the gun. Unknown to Deputy Litz, this person was watching from the window, and he then shot and killed Litz.

Today, a statue in honor of Deputy Litz and his K-9 stands proudly in Florida's capital. In a tragic twist, Deputy Litz' call sign was Batman. Today, visitors of this statue at the Florida capital can find the Batman emblem on the bottom of his K-9's foot.

Just an amazing story and, again, a great example of the ability of these dogs and their success in helping out with people, whether it is the person in need, the lost individual, search and rescue, the drug dealer, and just people who want to do other people harm in domestic violence.

I just want to briefly talk about dogs and handlers. The Putnam County Sheriff's Office has five dogs: Aries, handled by Sergeant Randy Hayes; Judo, handled by Blaine Moody; Zeke,

handled by Jerry Gentry; Halo, handled by Josue Garriga; and Putnam, named after the county, handled by Emmett Merritt.

Bradford County Sheriff's Office: Deputy Brandon Shoup and K-9 Grim.

Ocala Police Department: Officer King and K-9 Zorba; Officer Burgos and K-9 Babbo; Officer Arnold and K-9 Senior.

The Marion County Sheriff's Office, again, yesterday, we had the privilege of going down and presenting all the working dogs and their handlers with our Congressional Challenge Coin. As you can see, that dog looks rather well the way he is wearing that. At the Marion County Sheriff's Office, where we were yesterday, we got to have the demonstration on the catch dogs, or attack dogs, and we got a great demonstration. There are: Sergeant Daniel Trammell and K-9 Nitro; Deputy Alan Lee, who handles K-9 Zeus; Deputy Timothy Fretts with his dog, K-9 Robo; Deputy Colton Sullivan with his dog, K-9 Adelmo; Deputy Matt Bowers with K-9 Otow, which is named after a retirement village that donated the money for their dog; Deputy Jeremie Nix with his dog, K-9 Drago; Deputy Brandon Donahue with his dog, K-9 Tipster; and as we just heard the story, Deputy Matt Hopper with K-9 Rambo.

The Gainesville Police Department: Corporal Jeff Kerkau with his dog, K-9 Roo; Corporal Dylan Hayes-Morrison and his K-9 Ares; Officer Rob Rogers and K-9 Nero; Officer Ed Ratliff and his dog, K-9 Ace; Officer Josh Meurer and his dog, K-9 Ranger.

And the Alachua County Sheriff's Office:

Deputy Sheriff Lloyd O'Quinn and K-9 Eins. We just heard a story about them. A Malinois working in patrol, narcotics, and tracking.

Deputy Sheriff Esau Bright and K-9 Deacon, a Malinois working in patrol, narcotics, and trafficking.

That is what a lot of people don't realize. These dogs are trained in multiple disciplines and just work their hearts out.

Deputy Sheriff Mikell McKoy and his dog, K-9 Kaos, a Malinois working in patrol, narcotics, and trafficking.

Deputy Sheriff Brian Ritter and his dog, K-9 Kolt, a Malinois working in patrol, narcotics, and trafficking.

Deputy Sheriff Chris Griseck and his dog, K-9 Mack, a Malinois working in patrol, bombing, and tracking.

Then there is Deputy Sheriff Bill Arnold and his dog, K-9 Wick, a Malinois working in patrol, narcotics, and trafficking.

I think we are getting the point here of how valuable these dogs are. I would recommend to people, if you want to see the value and why we want to spend money and allow these dogs to be in our law enforcement, military, DEA, then watch demonstrations of these dogs and the acuteness of them.

There is Deputy Sheriff Chris Drake and his dog, K-9 Rous, a Malinois working in patrol, bomb, and tracking.

Sergeant Michael Hurlocker, who we heard the story of, and his K-9 partner, Havok, a Malinois working in patrol, bomb, and tracking.

Deputy Sheriff Adam Diaz and his dog, K-9 Shiloh, a Labrador Retriever working with the Drug Task Force.

Sergeant Bryan Jones and K-9 Jerry, a Malinois working with the Drug Task Force.

And then there is Sergeant Nigel Lowe and K-9 Zoey, a mixed breed working narcotics detection in our schools; and K-9 Malzi, a Malinois just joining the sheriff's office as a gun detection dog in our schools.

It is interesting, after the Parkland shooting on February 14, we had a roundtable of law enforcement, county sheriffs, city police chiefs, superintendents, school resource officers, and one of the things that came out of there is how the resource officers in our schools act as a deterrent for a lot of the kids. They are there. They see a person of authority.

One of the sheriffs brought up what I thought was a great suggestion that a lot of people also thought was a great suggestion, and that is a dog that can detect gunpowder in our schools. Let them tour the schools, let them show what the policemen can do beneficially to all of us.

It is a shame that we are in a time in society where we have to worry about guns going off in school, but until we rectify the underlying cause of that, I think we need to do what we can to keep our schools safe so our kids feel safe going to school.

I just want to end with this picture. Again, this is the Clay County Sheriff's Office with their dog, Diesel, who proudly took our Congressional Challenge Coin.

Mr. Speaker, I want to give a shout-out to all the offices that participated and shared stories with us. We are proud of them. We are proud of their K-9s. I don't want to say we are more proud of the K-9s than we are of them, but we are proud of all of them for the work that they do to keep us safer as citizens of the Third Congressional District, but also around the country and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

STANDING UP FOR THE UNBORN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to be recognized to address you here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

I would say in defense of the K-9 Corps—and I appreciate the presentation delivered by Dr. Yoho and my great friend from Florida, who gets common sense right in this Congress—that I am a fan of the K-9 Corps.